

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2005

Contact: Ari B. Adler
517-373-5886

Sikkema Has Concerns But is Interested in More Discussions on Governor's Bond Proposal

Hearings will address questions over governor's plan to add \$2 billion of debt

Lansing - Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema said today the governor's "Jobs Tomorrow" proposal will be given a thorough review by the Senate in order to answer many questions about the initiative.

"I've already had some discussions with the governor on her proposal, laying out my concerns and suggesting how she could garner more support, including my own," said Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "I'm concerned about \$2 billion being too much and the ideas on how to spend the money being too unfocused. That's why I've offered the governor suggestions on what the proposal should look like."

Sikkema reaffirmed his commitment to the governor that her economic proposals will be given a fair and nonpartisan review, but also restated that the Senate has a responsibility to be thorough.

"Complex economic proposals have many nuances that may not be apparent when you look at the bullet points," Sikkema said. "We need to dig deeper into this legislation to make sure we aren't repeating mistakes from the past. Bond proposals in 1988 and 1998 were too broad to be effective and too weak in terms of accountability."

Sikkema said he is not opposed to bonding, but it must be used appropriately.

"It's the people of Michigan who will be paying off this debt. We owe it to them to make sure that effectiveness and accountability are set at very high levels and that they receive the greatest possible return on their investment," Sikkema said.

###